

Message Text

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56

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02

STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 EURE-00

SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 ITC-01 USIA-06 AGR-05 /105 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0219

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, CIEC, GW

SUBJECT: FRG VIEWS ON COMMODITY POLICY UNDER DEBATE

REF: EC BRUSSELS 6601

1. FRG MINISTRIES ARE ONCE MORE EXAMINING GERMANY'S
INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY POLICY WITH VIEW TO FINDING
WHETHER IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO REACH A COMPROMISE WITH
OTHER EC MEMBERS WHICH WILL PERMIT EC TO ADOPT A COMMON
NEGOTIATING POSITION. ECONMIN ASST. SECRETARY STEEG
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TOLD ECON/COMC'L MINISTER THAT WHOLE GOVERNMENT IS

SEIZED WITH THIS PROBLEM, INCLUDING THE CHANCELLOR WHO IS EXPECTED TO DISCUSS IT WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD IN HAMBURG ON JULY 5-6.

2. ECONMIN OFFICIALS, BOTH THOSE IN FRAU STEEG'S BUREAU WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY POLICY AND THOSE WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING FRG POLICY VIS-A-VIS THE EC (MORAWITZ), BELIEVE THAT THE GULF SEPARATING GERMAN VIEWS FROM THOSE OF MOST OTHER EC MEMBERS IS TOO LARGE TO BRIDGE. THEY OPPOSE ANY FURTHER FLEXIBILITY FROM THE GERMAN SIDE, AND ARE SKEPTICAL THAT GISCARD CAN BE PERSUADED TO MODIFY FRENCH POLICY. THESE OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US THEY SEE NO OPTION FOR GERMANY BUT TO JOIN WITH U.S., JAPAN, AND PERHAPS UK IN PROTECTION OF THEIR COMMON INTERESTS. OTHER EC MEMBERS WILL PROBABLY FOLLOW EITHER FRENCH OR DUTCH LINE. IN THIS VIEW, THE EFFORTS TO REACH A COMMON EC POSITION MUST NOW BE REGARDED AS REGRETTABLE FAILURE.

3. MFA OFFICIALS SUCH AS SULIMMA, DIRECTOR OF OFFICE FOR UN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, BELIEVE ON THE CONTRARY THAT FRG MUST STILL STRIVE FOR A COMPROMISE WITHIN EC. IN THEIR VIEW EC FAILURE TO REACH COMMON POSITION IN SUCH A KEY AREA AS THIS WILL DECIMATE EC EFFORTS TO SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE IN NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE AS WELL AS PROVE A SETBACK TO EFFORTS TO MOVE TOWARD AN INTEGRATED COMMUNITY BY ADOPTING COMMON NEGOTIATING POSITIONS IN AN EXPANDING AREA OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY. THESE OFFICIALS ARE TRYING TO IMPRESS UPON ECONOMICS MINISTRY THE IMPORTANCE OF SUPPORTING COMMUNITY EFFORTS TO SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE, AND TO URGE ECONMIN EXPERTS TO FIND SOME MEANS OF COMPROMISE.

4. ECONMIN OFFICIALS HAVE INSTRUCTED FRG DELEGATE TO JULY 7 MEETING OF OECD HLG ON COMMODITIES (DR. KIPPER) TO TAKE UP WITH PRESTON PROPOSALS FOR MAKING THIS A MORE EFFECTIVE FORUM. KIPPER TOLD EMBOFF THAT ECONMIN SHARES WHAT HE SAID IS U.S. VIEW THAT HLG IS IN DANGER OF DEGENERATING INTO FORUM NOT WORTH KEEPING DUE TO LACK OF EFFECTIVE EC PARTICIPATION. IN HIS VIEW, PARTICIPANTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN HLG SHOULD SPEAK AS EXPERTS RATHER THAN AS OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES. THERE COULD THEN BE A FREE GIVE AND TAKE IN WHICH EXPERTS PUT FORTH IDEAS AND DISCUSS OPTIONS. KIPPER TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE INTENDS TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY AS AN "EXPERT", AND THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THAT BRITISH REP WILL DO LIKEWISE. HILLENBRAND

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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